

APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT

FOR

OUTPHASING MODULATOR

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OUTPHASING MODULATOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[001] Outphasing transmitters may be used in stations of wireless communication systems such as, for example, base stations, mobile stations of a cellular communication system and/or mobile units and access points of a wireless local area network (WLAN) and/or other types of wireless communication systems, if desired.

[002] Outphasing techniques may combine two nonlinear radio frequency (RF) power amplifiers (PA's) into a linear power amplifier system. The two PA's may be driven with amplitude modulated (AM) signals, phase modulated (PM) signals and/or amplitude and phase modulated signals. The amplitude and/or phase modulated signals may be provided by an outphasing modulator to the linear power amplifier system.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[003] The subject matter regarded as the invention is particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed in the concluding portion of the specification. The invention, however, both as to organization and method of operation, together with objects, features and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following detailed description when read with the accompanied drawings in which:

[004] FIG. 1 is a schematic illustration of a wireless communication system according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

[005] FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an outphasing transmitter according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

[006] FIGs. 3, 4 and 5 are schematic illustrations of three, respective, examples of modulated signals in a complex plane, helpful in demonstrating the operation of an outphasing modulator according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention; and

[007] FIG. 6 is a schematic illustration of control signals helpful in demonstrating the operation of an outphasing modulator according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention.

[008] It will be appreciated that for simplicity and clarity of illustration, elements shown in the figures have not necessarily been drawn to scale. For example, the dimensions of some of the elements may be exaggerated relative to other elements for clarity. Further, where considered appropriate, reference numerals may be repeated among the figures to indicate corresponding or analogous elements.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[009] In the following detailed description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the invention. However, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well-known methods, procedures, components and circuits have not been described in detail so as not to obscure the present invention.

[0010] Some portions of the detailed description, which follow, are presented in terms of algorithms and symbolic representations of operations on data bits or binary digital signals within a computer memory. These algorithmic descriptions and representations may be the techniques used by those skilled in the data processing arts to convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art.

[0011] It should be understood that the present invention may be used in a variety of applications. Although the present invention is not limited in this respect, the circuits and techniques disclosed herein may be used in many apparatuses such as transmitters of a radio system. Transmitters intended to be included within the scope of the present invention include, by a way of example only, cellular radiotelephone transmitters, two-way radio transmitters, digital system transmitters, wireless local area network transmitters, wideband transmitters, ultra wideband transmitters, and the like.

[0012] Types of cellular radiotelephone transmitters intended to be within the scope of the present invention may include, but are not limited to, Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA), CDMA-2000 and wide band CDMA (WCDMA) cellular radiotelephone transmitters for receiving spread spectrum signals, transmitters for global system for mobile communication (GSM), transmitters for third generation cellular systems (3G), orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) transmitters, and the like.

[0013] Turning first to FIG. 1, a schematic illustration of a wireless communication system 100 according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention is shown. Although the scope of the present invention is not limited to this example, wireless communication system 100 may include at least one base station 110 and at least one mobile station 140. In some embodiments of the

invention, base station 110 may include a transmitter 120 and mobile station 140 may include a transmitter 150. At least one of transmitters 120 and 150 may be an outphasing transmitter with reactive termination. For example, the reactive termination may be implemented in the form of a line coupler with shunt resistance, although the scope of the present invention is in no way limited in this respect.

[0014] Although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, base station 100 may request the mobile station to transmit at a desired power level. In some embodiments of the present invention the desired power level may depend, for example, on the distance of mobile station 140 from base station 110. For example, base station 110 may request to increase the output power if mobile station 140 is far from the base station 110 and to decrease the output power of mobile station 140 close to base station 110. In other embodiments of the present invention, the desired power level may be determined according to a standard of wireless communication system 100. The desired power level may vary from standard to standard and/or from system to system.

[0015] Although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, in some embodiments of the present invention, wireless communication system 100 may be a cellular communication system. Thus, base station 110 and mobile station 140 may include a base station and a mobile station, respectively, of a cellular communication system. In other embodiments of the present invention, wireless communication system 100 may be a WLAN communication system. In such embodiments, base station 110 may be an access point (AP) and mobile station 140 may be a mobile unit such as, for example, a laptop computer, a tablet computer, a handheld device, and the like.

[0016] Turning to FIG. 2, a block diagram of an outphasing transmitter 200 according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention is shown. Although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, in some embodiments of the present invention, outphasing transmitter 200 may include a modulator 210, an outphasing modulator 220, a power amplifier (PA) unit 230, which may include one or more power amplifiers, as described below, and at least one antenna 250.

[0017] Although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, modulator 210 may be included in a polar transmitter and may provide to outphasing modulator 220 a phase modulated (PM) signal 214 and an analog signal 218, which may be an envelope of an amplitude modulated (AM) signal. In some embodiments of the present invention, modulator 210 may include a synthesizer (SYN.) 212 and a digital to analog converter (DAC) 216. For example, SYN. 212 may modulate a phase of an RF signal (not shown) and may generate PM signal 214. DAC 216 may receive an AM signal, which may be converted into a digital signal (not shown). In some embodiments of the invention, DAC 216 may convert the digital signal to provide analog signal 218, which may be the envelope of the AM signal.

[0018] Although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, outphasing modulator 220 may include a poly-phase filter 222, an AM controller (CONT) 223, a mixer 224, combiners 225 and 226, and variable gain amplifiers (VGAs) 227 and 228. Although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, poly-phase filter 222 may receive PM signal 214 and may modify the phase of PM signal 214, for example, by $+90^{\circ}$ and/or -90° and/or by 0° . In some embodiments of the present invention, poly-phase filter 222 may provide a $PM+90^{\circ}$ signal to combiner 225, a $PM-90^{\circ}$ signal to combiner 226 and a $PM+0^{\circ}$ signal to mixer 224.

[0019] Although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, mixer 224 may provide an in-phase AM modulated signal to combiners 225, 226, as described below. In embodiments of the invention, AM controller 223 may use an AM_{HIGH} control signal to control the modulation performed by mixer 224. A modulation method applied by mixer 224 may be determined by the amplitude of the AM_{HIGH} control signal, if desired. In this exemplary embodiment, combiners 225, 226 may provide outphased signals to VGAs 227, 228, respectively. AM controller 223 may vary the gain of VGAs 227, 228 with an AM_{LOW} control signal. In some embodiments of the present invention, the amplitude of the AM_{LOW} control signal may be determined according to the desired output power of PA unit 230.

[0020] Although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, outphasing modulator 220 may provide at least two outphasing signals, e.g., S1 and S2, to PA unit 230. An envelope and/or phase of an RF signal 235 may correspond to the pair of complex conjugate outphasing signals S1 and S2, which may be input to PA unit 230, if desired. A position of outphasing signals S1 and S2 on a complex plane may be referred to herein as an outphasing route. In some embodiments, at least one outphasing route may be determined based on the efficiency of components of PA unit 230 and/or optimization criteria, e.g., a linearity optimization process. For example, the outphasing route may be generated by outphasing modulator 220. AM signal 218 and PM signal 214 of modulator 210 may be used to change the modulation of modulator 220 according to the desired outphasing route.

[0021] Although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, in some exemplary embodiments, PA unit 230 may include at least two power amplifiers and a combiner with reactive termination. In embodiments of the present invention, PA unit 230 may amplify and combine the outphasing signals S1 and S2 to provide RF signal 235 to antenna 250.

[0022] Although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, types of antennas that may be used for antenna 250 may include an internal antenna, a dipole antenna, an omni-directional antenna, a monopole antenna, an end fed antenna, a circularly polarized antenna, a micro-strip antenna, a diversity antenna, and the like.

[0023] The operation of outphasing modulator 220 will now be described in detail with reference to FIGS. 3, 4, 5, and 6. FIGS. 3, 4, and 5 are schematic illustrations of three, respective examples of modulated signals in a complex plane 300 that may be helpful in demonstrating the operation of outphasing modulator 220, according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention. FIG. 6 is a schematic illustration of control signals of AM controller 223 as a function of AM signal 218, helpful in demonstrating the operation of outphasing modulator 220, according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention.

[0024] Although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, outphasing modulator 220 may use different methods to synthesize RF signal 235

according to the position of RF signal 235 on complex plane 300, for example, the positions depicted by FIGS. 3, 4, 5. In some embodiments of the invention, the amplitude of RF signal 235 may be controlled by adjusting the position of outphasing signals S1 and S2 on an outphasing route 320.

[0025] In some embodiments of the present invention, AM controller 223 may receive analog signal 218 and may provide at least two control signals AM_{HIGH} 620 and AM_{LOW} 610, as depicted schematically in FIG. 6, which may be used to modulate the outphasing signals. Exemplary embodiments of the present invention, at least three different modulation methods may be used. The modulation methods may be selected according to the position of the RF signal on complex plane 300 and/or according to the AM level of the outphasing signals. In some embodiments, complex plane 300 may be divided into three regions such as, for example, a high power region 310 (shown in FIG. 3), a low power region 410 (shown in FIG. 4) and intermediate power region 510, (shown in FIG. 5).

[0026] Turning first to the modulation method that may be used for high power region 310, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, high power region 310 of the outphasing route may include constant quadrature components such as, for example the $PM+90^0$ signal and the $PM-90^0$ signal. High power region 310 may be composed of a vector sum of fixed amplitude quadrature components 330, 340, and modulated in-phase component 350. AM controller 223 may output, for example, a constant AM_{LOW} signal 610 and a non-constant AM_{HIGH} signal 620, as indicated by a "HIGH Power" region in FIG. 6. In this modulation mode, mixer 224 may modulate $PM+0^0$ signal according to the level of the AM_{HIGH} signal and the gain of VGAs 227, 228 may remain constant.

[0027] Turning to the modulation method that may be used for low power region 410, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, low power region 410 may be characterized by the linear behavior of quadrature (Q) components 420, 430 and an in-phase (I) component 440. In this modulation mode, the AM_{LOW} control signal 610 may vary the gain of VGAs 227, 228, and the AM_{HIGH} control signal 620 may remain constant, as is shown by a "LOW Power" region in FIG. 6. Thus, in this exemplary modulation method, mixer 224

may not modulate the $PM+0^0$ signal. Combiners 225, 226 may apply constant signals $PM+90^0$, $PM-90^0$ and a scaled $PM+0^0$ signal to VGAs 227, 228, respectively.

[0028] Turning to the modulation method that may be used for intermediate power region 510, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect, intermediate power region 510, may lie in the transition regions of the outphasing signals. For this exemplary modulation method, AM controller 223 may vary, substantially simultaneously, the levels of AM_{HIGH} control signal 620 and AM_{LOW} control signal 610, as indicated by a "MEDIUM Power" region in FIG. 6. In some embodiments, as power is reducing, mixer 224 may reach its minimum modulation amplitude and VGAs 227, 228 may be turned on. For example, mixer 224 may modulate $PM+0^0$ signal according to the voltage level of the AM_{HIGH} control signal 620, and the gain of VGAs 227, 228 may be varied according to the voltage level of the AM_{LOW} control signal 610, if desired.

[0029] While certain features of the invention have been illustrated and described herein, many modifications, substitutions, changes, and equivalents will now occur to those skilled in the art. It is, therefore, to be understood that the appended claims are intended to cover all such modifications, substitutions, changes, and equivalents as may fall within the true spirit of the invention.